

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an engine control part for controlling an  
engine;
- 5        a controller part connected in a communicable  
manner to said engine control part;  
            print scheduling means for setting a schedule  
of a print operation for every material for recording  
from said controller part to said engine control  
10     part;
- 15     a recording material discharging device control  
part connected in the communicable manner to said  
controller part and serving to control a recording  
material discharging device for discharging the  
recording material to outside;
- 20     recording material discharging schedule  
operation means for setting a schedule of a recording  
material discharging operation from said controller  
part to said recording material discharging device  
control part;
- 25     recording material discharging interval  
notifying means for notifying said controller part of  
a recording material discharging interval till said  
recording material discharging device becomes  
receivable of the recording material next time when  
said recording material discharging schedule  
operation means sets the schedule of the recording

material discharging operation for said recording material discharging device control part; and recording material discharging interval designation means for notifying said engine control 5 part of information about the recording material discharging interval of which said recording material discharging interval notifying means has notified, from said controller part,  
wherein said engine control part sets the 10 recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means as a recording material discharging interval from the recording material discharged by said recording material discharging device last time, 15 and determines a print operation start timing in consideration of the designated recording material discharging interval and, in the case of performing the print operation for a different sheet discharging port after discharging the recording material to said 20 recording material discharging device last time, a time expended for this print operation.

2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recording material discharging 25 interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means is effective in the recording material scheduled by said print

schedule means after said recording material discharging interval designation means has designated the recording material discharging interval.

- 5           3. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
              an engine control part for controlling an  
              engine;  
              a controller part connected in a communicable  
              manner to said engine control part;
- 10          print scheduling means for setting a schedule  
              of a print operation for every material for recording  
              from said controller part to said engine control  
              part;
- 15          a recording material supplying device control  
              part connected in the communicable manner to said  
              controller part and serving to control a recording  
              material supplying device for supplying the recording  
              material;
- 20          recording material supplying schedule operation  
              means for setting a schedule of a recording material  
              supplying operation from said controller part to said  
              recording material supplying device control part;
- 25          recording material supplying interval notifying  
              means for notifying said controller part of a  
              recording material supplying interval till the  
              recording material can be supplied next time when  
              said recording material supplying schedule operation

means sets the schedule of the recording material supplying operation for said recording material supplying device control part; and recording material supplying interval

5 designation means for notifying said engine control part of information about the recording material supplying interval of which said recording material supplying interval notifying means has notified, from said controller part,

10 wherein said engine control part sets the recording material supplying interval designated by said recording material supplying interval designation means as a recording material supplying interval from the recording material supplied from

15 said recording material supplying device last time, and determines a print operation start timing.

4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the recording material supplying interval designated by said recording material supplying interval designation means is effective in the recording material scheduled by said print schedule means after said recording material supplying interval designation means has designated

20 the recording material supplying interval.

25 5. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an engine control part for controlling an engine;

a controller part connected in a communicable manner to said engine control part;

5 print scheduling means for setting a schedule of a print operation for every material for recording from said controller part to said engine control part;

10 a recording material discharging device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material discharging device for discharging the recording material to outside;

15 recording material discharging schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material discharging operation from said controller part to said recording material discharging device control part;

recording material discharging interval  
20 notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material discharging interval till the recording material becomes receivable next time when said recording material discharging schedule operation means sets the schedule of the recording material discharging operation for said recording material discharging device control part;

recording material discharging interval

designation means for notifying said engine control part of information about the recording material discharging interval of which said recording material discharging interval notifying means has notified,

5 from said controller part;

a recording material supplying device control part connected in the communicable manner to said controller part and serving to control a recording material supplying device for supplying the recording

10 material;

recording material supplying schedule operation means for setting a schedule of a recording material supplying operation from said controller part to said recording material supplying device control part;

15 recording material supplying interval notifying means for notifying said controller part of a recording material supplying interval till the recording material can be supplied next time when said recording material supplying schedule operation

20 means sets the schedule of the recording material supplying operation for said recording material supplying device control part; and

recording material supplying interval designation means for notifying said engine control

25 part of information about the recording material supplying interval of which said recording material supplying interval notifying means has notified, from

said controller part,

wherein said engine control part determines a print operation start timing on the basis of the recording material supplying interval designated by  
5 said recording material supplying interval designation means and the recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means.

10        6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the recording material discharging interval designated by said recording material discharging interval designation means is effective in the recording material scheduled by said print  
15 schedule means after said recording material discharging interval designation means has designated the recording material discharging interval, and said engine control part sets the recording material discharging interval designated by said  
20 recording material discharging interval designation means as a recording material discharging interval from the recording material discharged by said recording material discharging device last time, and determines a print operation start timing in  
25 consideration of, in the case of performing the print operation for a different sheet discharging port after discharging the recording material to said

recording material discharging device last time, a  
time expended for performing the print operation for  
the different sheet discharging port after  
discharging the recording material to said recording  
5 material discharging device last time and the  
designated recording material discharging interval.

7. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 5, wherein the recording material supplying  
10 interval designated by said recording material  
supplying interval designation means is effective in  
the recording material scheduled by said print  
schedule means after said recording material  
supplying interval designation means has designated  
15 the recording material supplying interval.

8. An image forming apparatus according to  
claims 5, wherein if said recording material  
discharging interval designation means and said  
20 recording material supplying interval designation  
means designate the recording material discharging  
interval and the recording material supplying  
interval for the same recording material, said engine  
control part starts the print operation at a timing  
25 that meets both of conditions of the designated  
recording material discharging interval and of the  
designated recording material supplying interval.

9. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 6, wherein if said recording material  
discharging interval designation means and said  
recording material supplying interval designation  
5 means designate the recording material discharging  
interval and the recording material supplying  
interval for the same recording material, said engine  
control part starts the print operation at a timing  
that meets both of conditions of the designated  
10 recording material discharging interval and of the  
designated recording material supplying interval.

10. An image forming apparatus according to  
claim 7, wherein if said recording material  
discharging interval designation means and said  
recording material supplying interval designation  
means designate the recording material discharging  
interval and the recording material supplying  
interval for the same recording material, said engine  
15 control part starts the print operation at a timing  
that meets both of conditions of the designated  
recording material discharging interval and of the  
designated recording material supplying interval.  
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